

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion having a silver iodide content of 90 mol% or more, wherein the average grain size (R) and the average crystallite size (r) of silver halide emulsion grains in the emulsion satisfy the relationship of  $1 \leq R/r < 2$ .
2. The photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion as described in claim 1, wherein the average grain size (R) and the average crystallite size (r) of silver halide emulsion grains in the emulsion satisfy the relationship of  $1 \leq R/r < 1.4$ .
3. The photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion as described in claim 1, wherein the silver halide emulsion grains in the emulsion contain silver halide emulsion grains having a  $\beta$ -type crystal structure in an amount of 50 % or more.
4. The photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion as described in claim 1, wherein the average grain size (R) of the emulsion grains is  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$  or less.
5. The photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion as described in claim 4, wherein the average grain

size (R) of the emulsion grains is 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.

6. The photosensitive silver halide photographic emulsion as described in claim 1, wherein the coefficient of variation in the average grain size is 20% or less.

7. A photothermographic material comprising a support having on the same surface thereof a photosensitive silver halide emulsion, a photo-insensitive organic silver salt, a heat developer and a binder, wherein the photosensitive silver halide emulsion comprises the silver halide photographic emulsion described in claim 1.